

Sub G17

1. (twice amended) A method of verifying proper coupling of an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an operator who is located in a cab of a work machine, with (i) the work machine including the implement assembly and the lift arm assembly, (ii) the implement assembly including a hinge plate, (iii) the hinge plate having a first coupling aperture extending therethrough, (iv) the lift arm assembly having a lift arm and a cylinder, and (v) the cylinder being secured to the lift arm, comprising the steps of:

providing an implement coupler having (i) a first outside support plate, (ii) a second outside support plate spaced apart from the first outside support plate, (iii) a first inside support plate interposed the first and second outside support plates, (iv) a second inside support plate spaced apart from the first inside support plate and interposed the first and second outside support plates, (v) a center box section interposed the first and second inside support plates, the center box section having a void defined therein which is configured to receive an implement pin, and (vi) a rear box section interposed the first and second outside support plates, the rear box section having a rectangular shape;

positioning the cylinder within the rear box section;

advancing a hydraulic fluid into the cylinder so as to move a pin from a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first pin position, and (ii) the pin extends through the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in the second pin position by the operator from a position within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement assembly to the

F, D lift arm assembly is verified by the operator without having to exit the cab.

Sub G. 2 7. (twice amended) A method of verifying proper coupling of an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an operator who is located in a cab of a work machine, with (i) the work machine including the implement assembly and the lift arm assembly, and (ii) the implement assembly having a first coupling aperture, comprising the steps of:

D2 providing an implement coupler having (i) a first outside support plate, (ii) a second outside support plate spaced apart from the first outside support plate, (iii) a first inside support plate interposed the first and second outside support plates, (iv) a second inside support plate spaced apart from the first inside support plate and interposed the first and second outside support plates, (v) a center box section interposed the first and second inside support plates, the center box section having a void defined therein which is configured to receive an implement pin, and (vi) a rear box section interposed the first and second outside support plates, the rear box section having a rectangular shape;

positioning a cylinder within the rear box section;

advancing a hydraulic fluid into the cylinder so as to move a pin from a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first pin position, and (ii) the pin is positioned within the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in the second pin position by the operator from a position within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement assembly to the

Fig. D2 lift arm assembly is verified by the operator without having to exit the cab.

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15. (twice amended) A work machine, comprising:

- a cab in which an operator may be located;
- an implement assembly having an implement and a hinge plate secured thereto, wherein said hinge plate has a first coupling aperture extending therethrough;
- a lift arm assembly having a lift arm;
- an implement coupler interposed and secured to said lift arm assembly and said implement assembly, said implement coupler having (i) a first outside support plate, (ii) a second outside support plate spaced apart from said first outside support plate, (iii) a first inside support plate interposed said first and second outside support plates, (iv) a second inside support plate spaced apart from said first inside support plate and interposed said first and second outside support plates, (v) a center box section interposed said first and second inside support plates, said center box section having a void defined therein which is configured to receive an implement pin, and (vi) a rear box section interposed said first and second outside support plates, said rear box section having a rectangular shape[, said implement coupler being interposed and secured to said lift arm assembly and said implement assembly]; and
- a cylinder positioned within said rear box section, wherein (i) said cylinder is operable to move a pin between a first pin position and a second pin position in response to advancement of a hydraulic fluid within said cylinder, (ii) said pin is spaced apart from said coupling aperture when said pin is located in said first pin position, (iii) said pin extends through said coupling aperture when said pin is located in said second pin position, (iv) said pin is positioned within a field of

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